

REMARKS

First, Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing this case with Applicants' representatives on January 31, 2008. *See enclosed Statement of Substance of Interview.*

As a preliminary matter, the specification is objected to based on the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants amend the specification, as indicated herein. The Examiner indicated during the Examiner interview that these amendments would obviate his objections to the specification.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 are all the claims pending in the present application, claims 2 and 4 having been canceled as indicated herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 5 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of pending Appln. No. 10/664,028, hereinafter referred to as App '028. Also, claims 1 and 5 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 of pending Appln. No. 10/746,234, hereinafter referred to as App '234. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 5 and 6 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With respect to the prior art rejections, Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous rejections. However, the Examiner now applies new secondary prior art references to support the claims rejections. Specifically, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hinden et al. (RFC 2373 "IP Version 6 addressing Architecture"), hereinafter referred to as Hinden, in view of Itakura (U.S Patent Application

Publication No. 2003/0060285). Finally, claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinden in view of Marttinen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,853).

Provisional Double Patenting Rejections (App '028) - Claims 1 and 5

First, Applicants maintain arguments similar to the previously presented arguments. That is, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 5 of the present application are patentably distinguishable over claims 1 and 4 of App '028 at least since claims 1 and 4 of App '028 do not recite, "providing an interface ID area comprising a company ID area and a serial number area using an EUI-64 ID format; and identifying the devices using device ID information for identifying types of the devices recorded in an unused area in the company ID area of an interface ID area, using an EUI-64 ID format, the unused area in the company ID area being an area excluding a used area used for representing the company ID in the company ID area, and using unique numbers assigned to devices recorded in the serial number area," as recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Yet further, Applicants request that the Examiner hold this rejection in abeyance until the other pending application issues as a patent. Specifically, according to MPEP § 804 I.B., if a provisional double patenting rejection in one application is the only rejection remaining, then the Examiner should withdraw the provisional rejection and permit that application to issue as a patent, thereby converting the provisional double patenting rejection in the other application, i.e., App '028, into a bona fide double patenting rejection at the time the one application issues as a patent. Therefore, if all other claim rejections are withdrawn in the present application, claims 1 and 5 should be found allowable and the present application should be permitted to issue as a patent.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejections - Claims 1 and 5

Applicants request that the Examiner hold this rejection in abeyance at least based on reasons similar to those set forth in the paragraph above.

§112, first paragraph, Rejections - Claims 1-6

Applicants submit that claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

§101 Rejections - Claims 5-6

Applicants submit that claims 5-6 satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 101.

§103(a) Rejections (Hinden / Itakura) - Claims 1-6

Claims 1-6 are rejected over Hinden and Itakura based on the reasons set forth on pages 5-8 of the Office Action.

Hinden was initially the only reference applied against the claims, however now the Examiner applies secondary reference Itakura along with Hinden to allegedly render claims 1-6 unpatentable.

Applicants submit that neither Hinden nor Itakura, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest at least, "providing an interface ID area comprising a company ID area and a serial number area using an EUI-64 ID format; and identifying the devices using device ID information for identifying types of the devices recorded in an unused area in the company ID area and using unique numbers assigned to devices recorded in the serial number area, wherein the unused area in the company ID area is an area excluding a used area used for representing manufacturers of the devices in the company ID area," as recited in amended claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 5.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 3 and 6 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from independent claims 1 and 5.

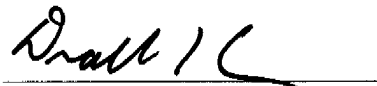
§103(a) Rejections (Hinden / Marttinen) - Claims 1-6

Similar to above, Applicants submit that neither Hinden nor Marttinen, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest at least, "providing an interface ID area comprising a company ID area and a serial number area using an EUI-64 ID format; and identifying the devices using device ID information for identifying types of the devices recorded in an unused area in the company ID area and using unique numbers assigned to devices recorded in the serial number area, wherein the unused area in the company ID area is an area excluding a used area used for representing manufacturers of the devices in the company ID area," as recited in amended claim 1 and similarly recited in claim 5.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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